



June 19, 2007

Progress Toward On-time State Budget

Over the past few weeks, the bipartisan Budget Conference Committee has made strong progress getting a compromise budget ready for a vote in time for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1. With hundreds of agenda items already reconciled, this week we'll close out all remaining issues, except those currently being negotiated by the "Big Four" (Speaker Núñez, Senator Perata, Assembly Republican Leader Villines and Senate Republican Leader Ackerman): funding for transportation, public schools (Prop. 98) and the infrastructure bonds passed last year by voters.

For a more transparent process than in past years, we're keeping the Conference Committee open during negotiations.

If you'd like to learn more and follow the action, check out the News & Resources section below including this week's Democratic Weekly Radio Address I recorded, as well as recent press releases, press coverage, and reports and information from the Budget Committee, Governor Schwarzenegger and the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

As I mentioned in the radio address, the budget process can be a long and tedious one, but it's worth watching – because it's all about your money and your values.

22 Laird Bills Approved by Assembly

Highlights:

Children's Health Coverage

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#) (audio)

Ocean Protection (4 bills)

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#) (audio)

Green Buildings

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#)

Sea Level Rise

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#)

Water Conservation/High-efficiency Toilets

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#)

Civil Rights Act of 2007

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#)

Clean Needle Exchange

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#)

First-time Homebuyers

[Press Release](#)

& [Press Coverage](#)

All bills now head to the Senate for consideration.

Greater Legislative Oversight: UC & CSU Long-range Planning

[Laird Press Release](#)



Budget Conference Committee action, chaired by John.

State Budget News & Resources

Democratic Weekly Radio Address: [Text and audio \(6/16/07\)](#)

Press Releases:

- [Update on Budget & Audio Clips From Sacto Press Club \(6/15/07\)](#)
- [Budget Subcommittee Final Report \(5/30/07\)](#)

Press Coverage:

- [Sacramento Bee \(6/8/07\)](#)
- [KQED/Capital Notes \(6/14/07\)](#)
- [San Jose Mercury News \(6/15/07\)](#)
- [SF Chronicle \(6/15/07\)](#)
- [California Progress Report \(6/15/07\)](#)

Budget Committee Resources ([click here](#)), including:

- Conference Committee Open Items List
- Conference Committee Actions-to-date List
- Conference Committee Agenda
- Assembly Budget Subcommittees 07-08 Report
- LAO Overview of Gov's May Revise Budget
- Budget Committee Highlights of Gov's May Revise Budget
- LAO Analysis of Gov's January Proposed Budget
- Budget Committee Preliminary 07-08 Budget Review
- LAO Initial Overview of Gov's January Proposed Budget
- Budget Committee Highlights of Gov's January Proposed Budget
- Gov's January Proposed 07-08 Budget

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[News story: Good Times Weekly](#)

Links to John's Website

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